

CLAIMS

1. A treatment element for the accommodation of dental hand instruments, comprising a base module (1) having connectors (39) for the supply of media to the instruments, furthermore comprising a top module (4; 12) including an instrument holder (5; 15), characterized in that said top module (4; 12) is interchangeable and that the base module (1) can, by changing the top module (4; 12), be converted from a type of apparatus having hanging instrument hoses into a whip-arm hose support type of apparatus.
2. A treatment element as defined in claim 1, characterized in that said top module can be releasably connected to said base module by hand.
3. A treatment element as defined in claim 1, characterized in that connectors (39) are disposed on the underside of the base module (1).
4. A treatment element as defined in any one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that said top module (4; 12) is equipped with a control panel (7; 19).
5. A treatment element as defined in any one of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that said top module (4; 12) is equipped with an instrument holder (5; 15) forming a separate component.
6. A treatment element as defined in any one of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that said top module (4) and said instrument holder (5) are adapted for the accommodation of instruments having hanging instrument hoses.
7. A treatment element as defined in claim 6, characterized in that said top module (4) has a flat receptacle (6) and the instrument holder (5) has docking bays (9) for holding instruments.

8. A treatment element as defined in any one of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that said top module (12) and said instrument holder (15) are adapted to guide the instrument hoses over the treatment element.
- 5 9. A treatment element as defined in claim 8, characterized in that on the top module (12) there are mounted swivel arms or whip arms and that the instrument holder (15) has troughs (16) for the accommodation of the instruments.
- 10 10. A treatment element as defined in any one of claims 1 to 9, characterized in that said connectors (2;39) can be shifted from a position for the attachment of a hanging instrument hose to a position for the attachment of a hose from the front.
- 15 11. A treatment element as defined in any one of claims 1 to 9, characterized in that an instrument removal detector (71) is provided which can be converted from a state for the detection of instruments having hanging instrument hoses to a state for the detection of instruments having swivel-arm or whip-arm hose supports.
- 20 12. A treatment element as defined in claim 11, characterized in that said instrument removal detector (71) can be displaced from said base module (1) to said top module (12).
- 25 13. A treatment element as defined in claim 11 or claim 12, characterized in that a single instrument removal detector (71) is provided on the base module (1) for use with both types of apparatus.
- 30 14. A treatment element as defined in any one of claims 1 to 13, characterized in that said top module (91) has a frame member (94) and an insert (95; 101) which insert (95; 101) is designed according to the type of apparatus required.